

move to return LB 662 to Select File for specific amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is not a sneaky, sinister amendment, not anything of that type. I think that you can agree with this. I have one concern for the Class I school people that are living miles and miles away from the school. Those that live farthest from the school pay the same taxes as those up close. We have in school statutes today a provision that if you live beyond a certain distance that the district will compensate you for your transportation expenses and that just doesn't do the job, because if a parent is living out there quite a ways from school, has to take that child to school in the morning, go back in the afternoon and pick that child up, you can't compensate that person for that expense. And all that I am doing is saying that if that Class I school district out there is closed as a result of this bill that then the receiving district must provide transportation, not pay for transportation, but provide the transportation, in other words, send the school bus out there to get them. Now if that is too great an expense for the school district, if they are about 35 miles away, I can see that running a bus out there every day, twice a day would be considered quite expensive, and what they would probably do then would be to keep that Class I school open. And I think that is only fair. If they don't want to pick up that student and take him into the center, center location, then they should be willing to maintain that Class I school district out there. So all I am saying is that we add this amendment that when this Class I school closes and becomes a part of one of the other class schools, that the elementary, I am not talking about the high school kids because they can get a driver's permit and probably drive in or they can work something out, but elementary kids can't get driving permits and it would be pretty hard for a mother or father to hold a job someplace else if he has to interrupt his day twice a day to take those kids to school. So I am suggesting that we mandate that the receiving district must transport those children. Their other choice is if they don't want to do that is to maintain the attendance center out there, and they could still be part of the Class II, III, or IV, V, or VI school district. I think it is only justice and I would ask you to vote to bring the bill back so we can put this amendment on it.